

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE: US V. JAMES G. RYAN

REF: A. JIDDA 2266, STATE 64309

1. DEPT JUSTICE ATTY HANDLING CAPTIONED CASE WILL NEED,
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, A WITNESS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI
ARABIA AND FROM EGYPT TO TESTIFY IN A CRIMINAL CASE WHICH
IS TO BE HELD VERY SHORTLY IN NEW YORK. DEPT JUSTICE ATTY
HAS PREPARED CONTENT OF A NOTE WHICH MEBAASSY OR LIASON
OFFICE SHOULD SEND TO THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS IN THIS
REGARD. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EXPEDITIOUS ASSISTANCE IN
VIEW OF RAPIDLY APPROACHING TRIAL DATE.

2. A NOTE SHOULD BE SENT TO SAUDI AND EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENTS
ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA...(APPROPRIATE OPENING)..."
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A. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS INFORMED THE DEPT OF
STATE THAT IT WILL NEED THE PRESENCE OF AN IMPORTANT
WITNESS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI
ARABIA/EGYPT, TO TESTIFY IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT
COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK IN THE CASE
OF UNITED STATES V. JAMES G. RYAN.

B. BEGINNING APRIL 17, 1978, IN NEW YORK CITY, MR. JAMES G. RYAN GOES ON TRIAL ON CRIMINAL CHARGES OF MAIL FRAUD ARISING FROM A SCHEME BY WHICH HE DEFRAUDED AMERICAN BUILDING CONTRACTORS OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 250,000. RYAN REPRESENTED HE WAS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF (EGYPT) (SAUDI ARABIA), AND THAT THE CONTRACTORS WERE REQUIRED TO DELIVER TO HIM A DOLS 30,000 CASH PERFORMANCE BOND WHICH HE WOULD PASS ON TO THE GOVERNMENT OF (EGYPT) (SAUDI ARABIA). THE CONTRACTORS DELIVERED THE MONEY TO RYAN, BUT UPON ARRIVING IN (EGYPT) (SAUDI ARABIA) DISCOVERED THAT THE PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT HE HAD DESCRIBED AS "READY TO GO" WAS NON-EXISTENT.

C. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONVICTION OF RYAN THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TESTIFY THAT RYAN WAS NOT AN AUTHORIZED INTERMEDIARY OF (EGYPT) (SAUDI ARABIA), THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT CASH PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND THAT HE DID NOT PASS ON CASH TO YOUR GOVERNMENT.

D. UNITED STATES LAW REQUIRES LIVE TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL TRIALS, THUS A WRITTEN STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE IN OUR COURTS.

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E. THE UNITED STATES THEREFORE, RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND AUTHORITY TO TESTIFY TO THE ABOVE, APPEAR IN NEW YORK AT THE TRIAL OF MR. RYAN AS A WITNESS FOR THE UNITED STATES. ALL EXPENSES WILL BE PAID BY THE UNITED STATES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THE TRIAL WILL LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, SO WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR SCHEDULE. THANK YOU FOR AN EXPEDITIOUS REPLY. VANCE

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